

Petersburg Cumberland Presbyterian Church

“Wrecked”

3-6-16

CTW: Psalm 36

READING: Mark 11

BPS: I propose to explore the cleansing work of God to the end that hearers will submit and be cleansed.

Jesus is making a mess of things in this text. He’s turning over tables, ticking off the Pharisees and withering fig trees. But its not like things were not messed up anyway

- Money changers set up in the Court of the Gentiles and exploited travelers
- Pharisees enriched themselves from the traffic and trade. How ugly it is when profit becomes the measure of success in spiritual activities
- And Jesus wrecked the little fig tree

It’s not like things aren’t wrecked today though

- Our families are wrecked. Our churches are wrecked. Our nation is wrecked.
- Should Jesus come “Look around” what would He see?
- Would we be cursed like the fig tree for not bearing fruit?

Jesus cleaned house—removing everything that the religious, cultural, social systems put in place that interfered with people’s contact with God

God judges nations—and we need it!

God judges churches and ours should submit and surrender to wherever He is leading

God judges us as individuals and our response ought to be confession and repentance

God remove mountains that we cannot overcome. Let’s not fight against God’s corrections!

The Temple did not stay clean for long. Soon it was back to business as usual. The merchants profiting off of the ignorance and need of the people set up shop. The money changers went back to exploiting those who were from far off.

The religions leaders, to reassure themselves, began to question Jesus’ authority. Ever notice that when the unvarnished truth is laid out that people scurry like roaches when the light is turned on? Ever hear yourself muttering, “Who do they think they are?” when your sin has been called out?

It’s a dangerous thing to resist God’s corrections. Let us not be resistant to God’s cleansing.

- Don’t put a band aid over the log in your eye. Don’t go forming a class action lawsuit for all the people with eye logs. One of the things that has proliferated evil in our time is that it is easier than ever to find people who will support our perversions.

Jesus cleaned up the Temple so people could connect with God. We would just rather live in filth. We are ok with leafy greens—Don’t expect fruit! Our religious lives are comfortable. But what will Jesus find when He comes looking?

Are there some figs here at PCPC? In your own life is there at least a green fig to two?

As far as I can tell the people that Jesus had the most contention with were religious people. People who had a form of godliness in religious practices but denied the power of the Spirit. These people were well versed in the Scripture. They had a lot of Bible Study under their belts and the knowledge to go with it but when it came to applying it they had traded righteousness for religion. One of the great safeguards against the arrogance, judgmentalism and self-righteousness of the Pharisees is to keep your knowledge and your humility in equal measure.

Don't resist God's correction in your life. And no matter how comforting it is don't trust in your religion to save you. Jesus saves. Everything else is counterfeit.

If you want to have some fruit for Jesus then you have to submit to His cleansing. You have to let go of the methods and techniques that you think are going to save you and make you successful. We have to recognize that it's His house and He can keep it any way He wants.

- If He wants riff raff here then so be it
- If He wants us interrupt our way of doing things then we should not complain
- If Jesus wants to take away everything that is familiar to you—theology, habits, ways of doing church stuff—If He wants you to get out—way out—of your comfort zone and having you do something that you are completely unqualified for then by God you ought to do it.

We ought to give up anything that we cling to more than Jesus. I suppose we would grow phenomenally if we would get rid of everything until all we had was Jesus. Because Jesus is enough.

- The old saying is true, "When Jesus is all you have you discover Jesus is all you need"

And if you want to be fruitful. If you don't want to be cursed as a church or as an individual then you are going to have to minister to people. Ministry to others is the fruit of a disciple. That's what Jesus wants to see when He comes fingering through our leaves. He wants to find evidence that you are ministering to others.

The Jewish leaders and people undid all Jesus' spring cleaning. Jesus cleaned house and within a week they killed the House Keeper. But 70 something years later the unclean Temple was torn stone from stone.

Sin is wrecking us. The American people have lost their Biblical morality. It's been replaced by "do as you feel." But you know—we shouldn't expect morality in the Godless. The real shame is that Church doesn't act much different.

- God will only put off His judgement so long
- Let's submit to the cleansing so we don't enter the judgement unclean
- Let's minister to others with the grace, and in the grace, of Jesus Christ that we might undo some of what wrecks us as individuals, as families, as a church and as a nation

Proverbs 3:10-11 "My son, do not reject the discipline of the Lord Or loathe His reproof, 12 For whom the Lord loves He reproves, Even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights."